Problems of powerloom owners in Surat and Bhivandi

459. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Surat and Bhivandi powerloom owners are facing problems and waiting for helping hand from the Central Government;

(b) whether Governm[illegible]ve assured them in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Representations have been received by the Government of India regarding various problems being faced by the powerloom industry. Government have initiated several steps to improve and strengthen the powerloom industry. Modernisation of powerloom service centres, setting of Computer Aided Centre and Group Insurance Scheme for powerloom workers are such main steps taken in this direction. The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) launched on 1.4.99 for modernisation of textile and jute industries also covers the powerloom sector. The TUFS has also been liberalised, particularly, for the powerloom sector. It is an on-going exercise. An apex body, *viz.*, the All India Powerloom Board (AIPB) under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Textiles, periodically reviews the powerloom sector and appropriate actions are taken. The Powerloom owners in Bhiwandi and Surat are also facing problems regarding the high power tariff for the powerloom sector and are demanding reduced power tariff at concessional rates for their manufacturing operations. The matter has been taken up with the major textile producing state governments to consider review and rationalisation of power tariff to encourage productivity and growth in the textile industry.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Revival plan for sick textile mills of NTC

460. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a large number of textile mills under NTC have been

declared sick and none of the revival plans prepared since 1992 has been implemented by NTC;

(b) whether Government have prepared a new Turn Around Plan Strategy for these mills; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) 8 out of 9 subsidiaries of NTC have been declared sick. The Government had approved a turn around plan of NTC in August, 1992 envisaging modernization of 55 mills at a cost of Rs. 532.78 crores. The revival strategy however could not succeed because the financial institutions were reluctant to fund the modernization plan due to reference of 8 subsidiary corporations of NTC to BIFR.

Government had approved another turn around strategy for NTC mills in 1995 which included *inter-alia*, modernization of 79 mills at an investment of Rs. 2005.72 crores. The funds for implementing this strategy were to be raised from sale of surplus land/assets of the mills, which did not materialize in the absence of permission of the concerned State Governments for sale of land.

(b) and (c) Government is finalizing its approach regarding NTC for the revival of maximum number of viable mills as per BIFR norms of net worth turning positive within the stipulated period. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revial plan.

Rehabilitation of sick textile mills

461. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the sick textile mills rehabilitated in the country during the last three years; and

(b) the steps being taken to rehabilitate the ailing textile mills during the current year?